



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

Raised Bill No. 6780

LCO No. 3499



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Introduced by:
(VA)

***AN ACT REQUIRING CERTAIN HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS TO
COMPLETE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS RELATED
TO MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS COMMON TO VETERANS AND
FAMILY MEMBERS OF VETERANS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 20-74t of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2015*):

4 (a) On and after October 1, 2004, each alcohol and drug counselor
5 licensed or certified pursuant to this chapter shall complete a
6 minimum of twenty hours of continuing education each registration
7 period. For purposes of this section, registration period means the
8 twelve-month period for which a license or certificate has been
9 renewed in accordance with section 19a-88 and is current and valid.
10 The continuing education shall be in areas related to the individual's
11 practice and shall include not less than one contact hour of training or
12 education each registration period on the topic of cultural competency
13 and, on and after January 1, 2016, not less than two contact hours of

14 training or education each registration period on the topic of mental
15 health conditions common to veterans and family members of
16 veterans, including (1) determining whether a patient is a veteran or
17 family member of a veteran, (2) screening for conditions such as post-
18 traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and (3)
19 suicide prevention training. Qualifying continuing education activities
20 are educational offerings sponsored by a hospital or other licensed
21 health care institutions, courses offered by a regionally accredited
22 institution of higher education or courses offered by individuals or
23 organizations on the list maintained by the Connecticut Certification
24 Board, Inc. as approved providers of such continuing education
25 activities.

26 Sec. 2. Section 20-32 of the general statutes is repealed and the
27 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

28 (a) No licensee under the provisions of this chapter shall use the title
29 "Doctor" or any abbreviation or synonym thereof unless he or she
30 holds the degree of doctor of chiropractic from a chartered chiropractic
31 school or college, in which event the title shall be such as will
32 designate the licensee as a practitioner of chiropractic. Each licensed
33 chiropractor shall exhibit his or her name at the entrance of his or her
34 place of business or on his or her office door. The Department of Public
35 Health shall not initiate a disciplinary action against a licensed
36 chiropractor who, prior to July 1, 2011, is alleged to have been
37 practicing as a chiropractor under any name other than the name of the
38 chiropractor actually owning the practice or a corporate name
39 containing the name of such chiropractor.

40 (b) All licensed chiropractors applying for license renewal shall be
41 required to participate in continuing education programs. Such
42 programs that shall include, on and after January 1, 2016, not less than
43 two contact hours of training or education on the topic of mental
44 health conditions common to veterans and family members of
45 veterans. The Commissioner of Public Health shall adopt regulations,

46 in accordance with chapter 54, to (1) define basic requirements for
47 continuing education programs, (2) delineate qualifying programs, (3)
48 establish a system of control and reporting, [and] (4) provide for
49 waiver of the continuing education requirement for good cause, and
50 (5) approve continuing education coursework appropriate for
51 chiropractors on the subject of mental health conditions common to
52 veterans and family members of veterans, including (A) determining
53 whether a patient is a veteran or family member of a veteran, (B)
54 screening for conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of
55 suicide, depression and grief, and (C) suicide prevention training. For
56 registration periods beginning on and after October 1, 2012, the
57 Commissioner of Public Health, in consultation with the Board of
58 Chiropractic Examiners, shall, on or before October 1, 2011, and
59 biennially thereafter, issue a list that includes not more than five
60 mandatory topics for continuing education activities that shall be
61 required for the two subsequent registration periods following the date
62 of issuance of such list.

63 Sec. 3. Section 20-94a of the general statutes is repealed and the
64 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

65 (a) The Department of Public Health may issue an advanced
66 practice registered nurse license to a person seeking to perform the
67 activities described in subsection (b) of section 20-87a, upon receipt of
68 a fee of two hundred dollars, to an applicant who: (1) Maintains a
69 license as a registered nurse in this state, as provided by section 20-93
70 or 20-94; (2) holds and maintains current certification as a nurse
71 practitioner, a clinical nurse specialist or a nurse anesthetist from one
72 of the following national certifying bodies that certify nurses in
73 advanced practice: The American Nurses' Association, the Nurses'
74 Association of the American College of Obstetricians and
75 Gynecologists Certification Corporation, the National Board of
76 Pediatric Nurse Practitioners and Associates or the American
77 Association of Nurse Anesthetists, their successors or other
78 appropriate national certifying bodies approved by the Board of

79 Examiners for Nursing; (3) has completed thirty hours of education in
80 pharmacology for advanced nursing practice; and (4) (A) holds a
81 graduate degree in nursing or in a related field recognized for
82 certification as either a nurse practitioner, a clinical nurse specialist, or
83 a nurse anesthetist by one of the foregoing certifying bodies, or (B) (i)
84 on or before December 31, 2004, completed an advanced nurse
85 practitioner program that a national certifying body identified in
86 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section recognized for
87 certification of a nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, or nurse
88 anesthetist, and (ii) at the time of application, holds a current license as
89 an advanced practice registered nurse in another state that requires a
90 master's degree in nursing or a related field for such licensure. No
91 license shall be issued under this section to any applicant against
92 whom professional disciplinary action is pending or who is the subject
93 of an unresolved complaint.

94 (b) During the period commencing January 1, 1990, and ending
95 January 1, 1992, the Department of Public Health may in its discretion
96 allow a registered nurse, who has been practicing as an advanced
97 practice registered nurse in a nurse practitioner role and who is unable
98 to obtain certification as a nurse practitioner by one of the national
99 certifying bodies specified in subsection (a) of this section, to be
100 licensed as an advanced practice registered nurse provided the
101 individual:

102 (1) Holds a current Connecticut license as a registered nurse
103 pursuant to this chapter;

104 (2) Presents the department with documentation of the reasons one
105 of such national certifying bodies will not certify him or her as a nurse
106 practitioner;

107 (3) Has been in active practice as a nurse practitioner for at least five
108 years in a facility licensed pursuant to section 19a-491;

109 (4) Provides the department with documentation of his or her

110 preparation as a nurse practitioner;

111 (5) Provides the department with evidence of at least seventy-five
112 contact hours, or its equivalent, of continuing education related to his
113 or her nurse practitioner specialty in the preceding five calendar years;

114 (6) Has completed thirty hours of education in pharmacology for
115 advanced nursing practice;

116 (7) Has his or her employer provide the department with a
117 description of his or her practice setting, job description, and a plan for
118 supervision by a licensed physician;

119 (8) Notifies the department of each change of employment to a new
120 setting where he or she will function as an advanced practice
121 registered nurse and will be exercising prescriptive and dispensing
122 privileges.

123 (c) Any person who obtains a license pursuant to subsection (b) of
124 this section shall be eligible to renew such license annually provided
125 he or she presents the department with evidence that he or she
126 received at least fifteen contact hours, or its equivalent, eight hours of
127 which shall be in pharmacology, of continuing education related to his
128 or her nurse practitioner specialty in the preceding licensure year. Such
129 continuing education shall include, on and after January 1, 2016, not
130 less than two contact hours of training or education on the topic of
131 mental health conditions common to veterans and family members of
132 veterans, including (1) determining whether a patient is a veteran or
133 family member of a veteran, (2) screening for conditions such as post-
134 traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and (3)
135 suicide prevention training. If an individual licensed pursuant to
136 subsection (b) of this subsection becomes eligible at any time for
137 certification as a nurse practitioner by one of the national certifying
138 bodies specified in subsection (a) of this section, the individual shall
139 apply for certification, and upon certification so notify the department,
140 and apply to be licensed as an advanced practice registered nurse in

141 accordance with subsection (a) of this section.

142 (d) A person who has received a license pursuant to this section
143 shall be known as an "Advanced Practice Registered Nurse" and no
144 other person shall assume such title or use the letters or figures [which]
145 that indicate that the person using the same is a licensed advanced
146 practice registered nurse.

147 Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 20-191c of the general statutes is
148 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
149 *October 1, 2015*):

150 (b) Qualifying continuing education activities shall be related to the
151 practice of psychology and shall include courses, seminars, workshops,
152 conferences and postdoctoral institutes offered or approved by: (1) The
153 American Psychological Association; (2) a regionally accredited
154 institution of higher education graduate program; (3) a nationally
155 recognized provider of continuing education seminars; (4) the
156 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; or (5) a
157 behavioral science organization that is professionally or scientifically
158 recognized. Not more than five continuing education units during
159 each registration period shall be completed via the Internet, distance
160 learning or home study. On and after January 1, 2016, qualifying
161 continuing education activities shall include not less than two contact
162 hours of training or education on the topic of mental health conditions
163 common to veterans and family members of veterans, including (A)
164 determining whether a patient is a veteran or family member of a
165 veteran, (B) screening for conditions such as post-traumatic stress
166 disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and (C) suicide
167 prevention training. Qualifying continuing education activities may
168 include a licensee's research-based presentation at a professional
169 conference, provided not more than five continuing education units
170 during each registration period shall be completed by such activities. A
171 licensee who has earned a diploma from the American Board of
172 Professional Psychology during the registration period may substitute

173 the diploma for continuing education requirements for such
174 registration period. For purposes of this section, "continuing education
175 unit" means fifty to sixty minutes of participation in accredited
176 continuing professional education.

177 Sec. 5. Subsection (c) of section 20-195c of the general statutes is
178 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
179 *October 1, 2015*):

180 (c) Licenses issued under this section may be renewed annually in
181 accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88. The fee for such
182 renewal shall be three hundred fifteen dollars. Each licensed marital
183 and family therapist applying for license renewal shall furnish
184 evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of having participated in
185 continuing education programs. The commissioner shall adopt
186 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to (1) define basic
187 requirements for continuing education programs, which shall include
188 not less than one contact hour of training or education each
189 registration period on the topic of cultural competency and, on and
190 after January 1, 2016, not less than two contact hours of training or
191 education each registration period on the topic of mental health
192 conditions common to veterans and family members of veterans,
193 including (A) determining whether a patient is a veteran or family
194 member of a veteran, (B) screening for conditions such as post-
195 traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and (C)
196 suicide prevention training, (2) delineate qualifying programs, (3)
197 establish a system of control and reporting, and (4) provide for waiver
198 of the continuing education requirement for good cause.

199 Sec. 6. Subsection (b) of section 20-195cc of the general statutes is
200 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
201 *October 1, 2015*):

202 (b) Licenses issued under this section may be renewed annually
203 pursuant to section 19a-88. The fee for such renewal shall be one

204 hundred ninety dollars. Each licensed professional counselor applying
205 for license renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the
206 commissioner of having participated in continuing education
207 programs. The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance
208 with chapter 54, to (1) define basic requirements for continuing
209 education programs, which shall include not less than one contact
210 hour of training or education each registration period on the topic of
211 cultural competency and, on and after January 1, 2016, not less than
212 two contact hours of training or education each registration period on
213 the topic of mental health conditions common to veterans and family
214 members of veterans, including (A) determining whether a patient is a
215 veteran or family member of a veteran, (B) screening for conditions
216 such as post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and
217 grief, and (C) suicide prevention training, (2) delineate qualifying
218 programs, (3) establish a system of control and reporting, and (4)
219 provide for a waiver of the continuing education requirement for good
220 cause.

221 Sec. 7. Subsection (b) of section 20-195u of the general statutes is
222 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
223 *October 1, 2015*):

224 (b) Continuing education required pursuant to this section shall be
225 related to the practice of social work and shall include not less than
226 one contact hour of training or education each registration period on
227 the topic of cultural competency and, on and after January 1, 2016, not
228 less than two contact hours of training or education each registration
229 period on the topic of mental health conditions common to veterans
230 and family members of veterans, including (1) determining whether a
231 patient is a veteran or family member of a veteran, (2) screening for
232 conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide,
233 depression and grief, and (3) suicide prevention training. Such
234 continuing education shall consist of courses, workshops and
235 conferences offered or approved by the Association of Social Work
236 Boards, the National Association of Social Workers or a school or

237 department of social work accredited by the Council on Social Work
238 Education. A licensee's ability to engage in on-line and home study
239 continuing education shall be limited to not more than six hours per
240 registration period. Within the registration period, an initial
241 presentation by a licensee of an original paper, essay or formal lecture
242 in social work to a recognized group of fellow professionals may
243 account for five hours of continuing education hours of the aggregate
244 continuing education requirements prescribed in this section.

245 Sec. 8. Subsection (b) of section 20-10b of the general statutes is
246 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
247 *October 1, 2015*):

248 (b) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (d), (e) and (f) of
249 this section, a licensee applying for license renewal shall earn a
250 minimum of fifty contact hours of continuing medical education
251 within the preceding twenty-four-month period. Such continuing
252 medical education shall (1) be in an area of the physician's practice; (2)
253 reflect the professional needs of the licensee in order to meet the health
254 care needs of the public; and (3) during the first renewal period in
255 which continuing medical education is required and not less than once
256 every six years thereafter, include at least one contact hour of training
257 or education in each of the following topics: (A) Infectious diseases,
258 including, but not limited to, acquired immune deficiency syndrome
259 and human immunodeficiency virus, (B) risk management, (C) sexual
260 assault, (D) domestic violence, (E) cultural competency, [and] (F)
261 behavioral health, and (G) on and after January 1, 2016, include not
262 less than two contact hours of training or education each renewal
263 period on the topic of mental health conditions common to veterans
264 and family members of veterans, including (i) determining whether a
265 patient is a veteran or family member of a veteran, (ii) screening for
266 conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide,
267 depression and grief, and (iii) suicide prevention training. For
268 purposes of this section, qualifying continuing medical education
269 activities include, but are not limited to, courses offered or approved

270 by the American Medical Association, American Osteopathic Medical
 271 Association, Connecticut Hospital Association, Connecticut State
 272 Medical Society, county medical societies or equivalent organizations
 273 in another jurisdiction, educational offerings sponsored by a hospital
 274 or other health care institution or courses offered by a regionally
 275 accredited academic institution or a state or local health department.
 276 The commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, may grant a
 277 waiver for not more than ten contact hours of continuing medical
 278 education for a physician who: (i) Engages in activities related to the
 279 physician's service as a member of the Connecticut Medical Examining
 280 Board, established pursuant to section 20-8a; (ii) engages in activities
 281 related to the physician's service as a member of a medical hearing
 282 panel, pursuant to section 20-8a; or (iii) assists the department with its
 283 duties to boards and commissions as described in section 19a-14.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2015	20-74t(a)
Sec. 2	October 1, 2015	20-32
Sec. 3	October 1, 2015	20-94a
Sec. 4	October 1, 2015	20-191c(b)
Sec. 5	October 1, 2015	20-195c(c)
Sec. 6	October 1, 2015	20-195cc(b)
Sec. 7	October 1, 2015	20-195u(b)
Sec. 8	October 1, 2015	20-10b(b)

Statement of Purpose:

To require certain health care professionals to complete continuing education on the topic of mental health conditions common to veterans and family members of veterans.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]